
Future directions for ICA

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What is ICA

1 ICA's Vision

One of the most significant challenges that a European higher education institution faces is the competition from other higher education institutions at the European level and worldwide. To succeed a higher education institution needs to strive to enhance the quality of its provision and to engage in the international arena. **ICA's vision** is to see its members succeed in this international market place by providing the environment to support the sharing of experience, for co-operation in new ventures, and to benefit from the resulting synergy.

2 ICA's Mission Statement

ICA's mission is to stimulate and support its member institutions in the development of a European dimension in education and research through the development of concerted actions and in engaging globally, and to represent the general interest of its members at the European level.

ICA operational objectives

1. supporting the development of a European dimension to education, research and innovation through active networking, joint conferences and joint EU projects
 2. promoting the availability of European education and research in ICA's disciplines world wide
 3. supporting the actions and initiatives of different disciplines and networks through its collaboration in the work of ICA's Standing Committees
 4. representing the general interest of universities focusing on the life sciences in Europe
 5. enhancing the quality of higher education by taking a proactive role in international quality assurance and accreditation processes
 6. enhancing the engagement of universities with enterprises in respect of education, research and innovation
 7. supporting global internationalization of ICA's members by working directly with members and through involvement by ICA in the work of international networks
 8. co-operating with other relevant institutions and professional organisations
 9. securing funds to reach these objectives
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Action plan for ICA

- To position ICA as the leading organization in Europe defending the interests of agricultural and life science universities
- To develop activities and operations based on its members interests
- To make from ICA a financially sound organisation

Main priority:

- Putting in action the strategic plan 2012-2015

Operationalisation of ICA strategic plan

- Main strategic points:
 - Global representation
 - Networking through conferences and working with ICA's Standing Committees
 - Move of the Secretariat
 - Challenges for ICA's Board

Global representation within EU and outside

- ICA has become an affiliated member of EUA
 - ICA is a Board member of the re-launched GCHERA – the Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences
 - ICA Board is exploring the possibility of arranging missions to universities in the BRICS countries to promote European education and research
 - ICA sets up support activities for its members (e.g. global data base of educational programs)
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ICA Conference Strategy

- Annual ICA Rectors' and Deans' Forum at the end of October beginning of November – primary focus to support networking for senior managers and to develop main ideas for future actions in ICA
 - Global conference: the GCHERA conference alternating with a conference hold with our North American/Canadian sister organisations
 - Support to global initiatives of standing committees or member organisations
 - Specific initiatives with other sister organisations in the world
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ICA and Standing Committees

- The Board is exploring ways of strengthening the meaning of the ICA umbrella which brings together the ICA Standing Committees
 - ICA defends general interests while standing committees deepen the actions in particular field :
 - Regionally or thematically
 - Specific projects
 - Engaging specific groups
 - Main vehicle will be an MoU and the ICA council
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ICA standing committees

Subject Specific Networks

- **AGRIMBA**, International Network for the MBA Agribusiness and Commerce
- **ERABEE**, Network for Education and Research in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering in Europe
- **SILVA**, European Forest Science Academic Network

Support networks

- **AGRINATURA**, The European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development
- **CASEE** The ICA Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe
- **ICA - Edu** The ICA Network for Innovation in Higher Education in the Life Sciences (formerly the European Conference of Higher Agricultural Education, ECHAE)
- **IROICA**, the International Relations Officers' Network of the Association for European Life Science Universities

Role of ICA-edu

- We believe ICA can have additional value in enhancing education quality
- ICA has played a major role in quality assessment and systems development (role of EAALS)
- Need for exchanging experiences in teaching methods, assessment of learning outcomes, use of (new) teaching technologies, ...
- Vehicle: ICA-edu platform with conferences, teaching materials, ...
- Question: How to engage vice-rectors, directors or deans of education and quality control

ICA organisation

- Board of 7 members (president, vice-president and 5 board members representing regional constituencies) + ex-officio secretary of the Board (Rector Jiri Balik, directing the administrative secretariat)
 - Support secretary-general (Simon Heath), an administrative secretariat (Jaromir Nemec at CULS) and treasurer (Mika Rekola)
 - IROICA president is also ex-officio member of ICA board (for supportive actions)
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ICA board: Regional Election Constituencies

In order to fulfil the Statute requirement of a regional distribution of Board members and to make sure ICA board is representing all members the Board has set up the following election constituencies:

- NORTHERN EUROPE
 - WESTERN EUROPE
 - SOUTHERN EUROPE
 - CENTRAL and EASTERN EUROPE
 - CIS REPUBLICS
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ICA membership

- Membership fees (600 -1200 euro)
- Presently ± 60 members (from about 300 universities offering life science education)
- Forum is vehicle to interest more universities and hopefully having more members
- Members giving more steering possibilities by moving of General Assembly and budget approval to October/November (at the occasion of ICA forum) so that deans/rectors can decide on the way forward for ICA

Food for thought/discussion

- Which activities do rectors/deans want that ICA is developing in future ? New ideas ?
 - How can we engage vice-rectors/deans of education in ICA-edu ?
 - Possible themes for rector/deans forum ?
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Next forum

- Gent, end of October 2013
- Theme

‘Universities engaging in the bio-economy’

Thank you for your attention

